

SMITH, VELMA T
81 JIDDA 4144

05/05/82 083543

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSCF-00

NSAE-00 SSO-00 PM-09 SSM-03 INRE-00

SPRS-02 /055 W

SSN-02 SP-02

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3592

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, IS, IR

SUBJECT: AWACS AND THE ISRAELI RAID INTO IRAQ

REF: (A) JIDDA 4143 (B) BEIRUT 3836 (C) AMMAN 4425

1. (LOU) IN VIEW OF THE RUMORS NOW PROLIFERATING

ARAB WORLD THAT THE AWACS STATIONED IN SAUDI ARABIA MUST

HAVE SEEN THE ISRAELI APPROACH TO BAGHDAD BUT DID NOT TELL

THE SAUDIS (REFTELS), THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DRAW

ON THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS FOR A STATEMENT BY THE DE-

PARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN AND FOR REPETITION TO ARAB POSTS

FOR THEIR USE IN SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT. THIS IN-

FORMATION WILL ALSO ALLAY THE SUSPICION ON THE PART OF

SOME THAT THE AWACS MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME ROLE IN THE

ISRAELI OPERATION AND WILL HELP SUBSTANTIATE THE U.S.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT DENYING FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID.

2. (U) THE AWACS (E3C) WERE CONDUCTING THEIR USUAL FLIGHT

OPERATIONS BETWEEN THEIR BASE, RIYADH, AND THE ARABIAN

GULF COAST.

3. (U) E3C RADARS WERE ENGAGED IN THE MISSION AGREED

LAST SEPTEMBER WITH THE SAG, WHICH IS TO MAINTAIN SURVEIL-

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LANCAGE OF AERIAL ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH-EASTERN AND EASTERN

APPROACHES (I.E., FROM ACROSS THE GULF) TO THE SAUDI

ARABIAN OILFIELDS AND PETROLEUM FACILITIES.

4. (U) THE ISRAELI F-15/F-16 FLIGHT PATHS TO AND FROM

BAGHDAD WERE WELL BEYOND THE RANGE OF THE E3C RADARS.

(THAT RANGE, ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED SOURCES, IS APPROXI-

MATELY 250 MILES).

5. (U) AS IS STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, ROYAL SAUDI

AIR FORCE (RSAF) PERSONNEL WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE

AWACS ACTIVITY, AND, HAD THE ISRAELI OPERATION BEEN

DETECTED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO SUPPRESS THIS

INFORMATION.

6. (U) IN SUM, THE AWACS ACTIVITY WAS CARRYING OUT

ITS ROUTINE ASSIGNMENT AND HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE

ISRAELI STRIKE UNTIL THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT

OCCURRED. NEUMANN

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